

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 140319
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA:SMA
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR: A C HEWITT
-----058198 022143Z /66

O R 022109Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140319

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, US

SUBJECT:NEIT NIVAR'S "DISINFORMATION" CAMPAIGN SPREADS
TO WASHINGTON.

1. DOMINICAN SENATOR SOCRATES PICHARDO (REFORMIST PARTY),
CALLED ON ARA/CAR DIRECTOR HEWITT AND DOMINICAN DESK
OFFICER DESANTILLANA JUNE 1. THE APPOINTMENT WAS ARRANGED
BY IRVING DAVIDSON, FORMER LOBBYIST FOR THE GODR IN
WASHINGTON AFTER PICHARDO HAD SOUGHT AN APPOINTMENT WITH
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS. DAVIDSON
TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICERS PRIVATELY THAT PICHARDO HAD
BEEN REFERRED TO HIM BY MAJ. GEN. NEIT NIVAR, DOMINICAN
CHIEF OF POLICE, WHO HAD ASKED DAVIDSON TO ARRANGE MEETINGS
FOR PICHARDO WITH MONDALE AND OTHER USG LEADERS. DAVIDSON
SAID HE COUNSELED PICHARDO TO MEET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
IN CHARGE OF DR AFFAIRS INSTEAD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 140319

2. PICHARDO SAID HE HAD COME TO WARN THE USG THAT IF
THE PRD TAKES POWER IN THE DR IT WILL "SOCIALIZE" THE
COUNTRY AND TURN IT INTO ANOTHER CUBA. THE PRD, HE
CLAIMED, IS DOMINATED BY PRO-COMMUNIST LEADERS, SUCH AS
PRD GEN. PENA GOMEZ. PENA GOMEZ, IF ALLOWED TO GAIN
CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, WILL CALL IN CUBAN ADVISORS TO

RUN THE DR.

3. PICHARDO ALSO TROTTED OUT CHARGES OF MASSIVE FRAUD IN THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS. HE ASSERTED THAT 700,000 DOMINICANS WERE DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE BY MANIPULATION OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION MACHINERY BY COMMUNIST-TRAINED PRD AGENTS. HE CLAIMED PR HAS EVIDENCE OF THIS FRAUD, AND WILL USE IT TO CHALLENGE THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS. HE ALSO SAID THE PR WILL CALL FOR "COMPLEMENTARY" ELECTIONS FOR THE 700,000 ALLEGEDLY UNABLE TO VOTE. HE NOTED PR HAS ALREADY LODGED A FORMAL CHALLENGE AGAINST ELECTION BOARD CHAIRMAN CASTILLO ON BASIS OF ALLEGED PARTIALITY.

4. HEWITT RESPONDED, EMPHASIZING HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE USG AS A WHOLE. PICHARDO WAS TOLD THAT, AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SAID, OUR ONLY INTEREST IS THAT DOMINICAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES BE RESPECTED. FROM ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US FROM MANY SOURCES, THE USG IS SATISFIED THAT THE ELECTIONS OF MAY 16 REPRESENTED THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WE WOULD VIEW WITH DEEP CONCERN ANY ACTION TO OVERTURN OR NEGATE THE OUTCOME OF THOSE ELECTIONS. IF THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS SHOULD BE OVERTURNED, US POLICIES TOWARD THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 140319

5. PICHARDO WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE USG DOES NOT SHARE HIS VIEW THAT THE PRD IS COMMUNIST-DOMINATED.

WHILE THE PRD MAY CONTAIN A RANGE OF POLITICAL TENDENCIES, AS DO MOST PARTIES, THE USG HAS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE POLICIES OF PRESIDENT-ELECT GUZMAN, AFTER HE TAKES OFFICE, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE. THE US EXPECTS TO MAINTAIN THE SAME CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH A GUZMAN ADMINISTRATION AS WE HAVE ENJOYED WITH THE GODR UNDER PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

6. PICHARDO THEN INQUIRED WHAT THE USG'S REACTION WOULD BE IF THE ELECTIONS BOARD DETERMINES THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS WERE NOT SATISFACTORY, AND CALLS SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS. HEWITT SAID THAT AFTER THE MILITARY'S INTERVENTION TO DISRUPT THE ELECTION PROCESS MAY 17, ANY SUPPLEMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD BE MET WITH GREAT SKEPTICISM IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE, PARTICULARLY IF THE "SUPPLEMENTARY" ELECTIONS RESULTED IN AN OUTCOME DIFFERENT FROM THE ELECTIONS OF MAY 16. HEWITT STRESSED AGAIN OUR VIEW THAT THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS WERE BASICALLY FAIR AND HONEST, AND ANY OVERTURNING OF THOSE ELECTIONS WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT

U.S.-DOMINICAN RELATIONS.

7. PICHARDO ASSERTED THERE HAD BEEN NO MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE VOTE COUNT. HE SAID THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTIONS BOARD HAD IRRESPONSIBLY "DISAPPEARED" ON THE MORNING OF MAY 17 AND COULD NOT BE FOUND. HEWITT SAID WE REJECT THAT ASSERTION. THE USG IS SATISFIED THAT ELEMENTS OF THE DOMINICAN MILITARY AND POLICE UNCONSTITUTIONALLY INTERVENED TO INTERRUPT THE WORK OF THE ELECTIONS BOARDS ON MAY 17.

8. IN CONCLUSION, PICHARDO SAID HE WISHED TO WARN THE USG ONCE AGAIN OF THE GRAVE THREAT TO "DEMOCRACY" POSED BY THE PRD. WE SAID WE BELIEVE THE ONLY THREAT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 140319

DEMOCRACY IN THE DR IS POSED BY THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE DOMINICAN MILITARY WHO USED FORCE TO DISRUPT THE ELECTIONS.

9. AT ONE POINT IN THE EXCHANGE PICHARDO WAS ASKED IN WHAT CAPACITY HE WAS CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT, AND WHETHER HE WAS SPEAKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GODR. PICHARDO SAID HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS OWN VIEWS, AS A DOMINICAN SENATOR AND DEPUTY SEC. GEN. OF THE REFORMISTA PARTY, BUT HE HAD ALSO COME TO THE U.S. REPRESENTING A GROUP OF "CONCERNED DOMINICANS" WHO WISH TO INFORM THE U.S. OF THE THREAT THE DR WILL BECOME ANOTHER CUBA. PICHARDO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A DR. ALBERTO SPILFEIGEL, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE SENATOR. SPILFEIGEL'S CALLING CARD CARRIES THE TITLE "ASSISTENTE DEL PRESIDENTE." HE SAID HE IS AN ARGENTINE NATIONAL NOW LIVING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

10. COMMENT: IF PICHARDO WAS THE BEST ADVOCATE GEN. NIVAR COULD FIND TO CARRY HIS "DISINFORMATION" CAMPAIGN TO THE U.S., THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT IMPRESSED. AT THE SAME TIME PICHARDO'S REACTIONARY VIEWS, IF WIDELY SHARED AMONG IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE GODR, WOULD APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS THREAT TO DEMOCRACY IN THE DR. CHRISTOPHER

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